

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**September 19, 2003**

**03-12**

### **ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON ADULT LITERACY**

WHEREAS, low literacy levels are costly to government, taxpayers, and society, because they contribute to a myriad of problems including unemployment, welfare dependency, poor school performance in children, compromised health, inadequate supply of skilled labor for businesses, and high criminal justice costs;

WHEREAS, adult literacy is key to economic development, healthy communities and families, and an engaged citizenry;

WHEREAS, many state agencies are involved with the delivery of adult literacy services and Rhode Island does not have a coordinated integrated system for delivery of such services;

WHEREAS, an integrated, high-quality adult literacy system would serve to support adults striving to succeed as workers, parents, and citizens as well as employers searching for skilled workers; and

WHEREAS, adult literacy funding shall be increased by \$1.4 million next year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. There is hereby created a Task Force on Adult Literacy to review current state practices, to consult with and commission written input from experts in the relevant fields, as well as from the provider community, the business community,

adult learners and other community stakeholders, in order to develop an integrated, high-quality adult literacy system in Rhode Island.

2. The Task Force shall:
  - a. recommend an allocation of the \$1.4 million investment within 30 days of the signing of this Executive Order;
  - b. coordinate services among agencies to match resources with needs;
  - c. establish management capacity in the state to govern the adult literacy infrastructure in the future;
  - d. identify gaps in the delivery system and design a plan to build capacity to fill those gaps;
  - e. develop quality standards to improve the system in key areas such as provider accountability, staff development and curricula.
3. The Governor's Policy Director shall chair the Task Force. Task Force members shall include: the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, or designee; the Commissioner of Higher Education or designee; the Director of Human Services or designee; the Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation or designee; the Chairperson of the Adult Education Commission or designee; the Executive Director of the Economic Policy Council or designee; the Chairperson of the Human Resources Investment Council or designee.
4. The Task Force shall meet regularly and shall report to the Governor its findings and recommendations for improving system governance and capacity. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof and shall remain in effect through January 2004.

So Ordered:

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Donald L. Carcieri

Date \_\_\_\_\_